

## Message Text

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67

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 INT-08 SMI-01

NEA-10 IO-15 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 SPC-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 OIC-04

H-03 CG-00 AGR-20 DRC-01 /242 W

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P R 100445Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7382

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, TBIO, JA

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)

REF: STATE 195841; STATE 195835

SUMMARY: EMBASSY DELIVERED NOTE ON WHALING TO FOREIGN  
OFFICE AND AT SAME TIME STRONGLY PROTESTED JAPANESE  
DECISION TO DISREGARD RECOMMENDATIONS IWC. FONOFF  
OFFICIAL STATED JAPANESE DECISION RECEIVED MINISTERIAL  
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ATTENTION AND THAT JAPAN BELIEVES ITS ACTIONS ENTIRELY

CONSISTENT WITH WHALE CONSERVATION. STRESSED STRONG PERSONAL DOUBT THAT GOJ BUREAUCRACY WILL FIND SITUATION SUFFICIENTLY ALTERED TO PERMIT GOJ CABINET AGAIN REVIEW QUESTION SO THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED ONLY SHORT TIME AGO. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE FOREIGN MINISTER AND IN ORDER NOT TO DELAY DELIVERY US NOTE ON WHALING CONSERVATION, MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS EDMOND AND RFA NAKATSU CALLING ON DIRECTOR GENERAL HIROMICHI MIYAZAKI, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF AND YUKINORI WATANABE, CHIEF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY DIVISION. MIYAZAKI IS MOST SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGEABLE WHALING QUESTION.

2. EDMOND EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN IN US OVER OBJECTIONS OF JAPAN TO IWC DECISIONS AND POINTED OUT USG CONSIDERED JAPANESE ACTION TO BE MAJOR SETBACK TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONSERVE WHALES AND SERIOUS THREAT TO CONTINUED EXISTENCE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION AS EFFECTIVE BODY. IN THIS CONNECTION HE NOTED JAPAN WAS OVERRIDING VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS HELD BY LARGE MAJORITY OF IWC. EDMOND NOTED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO ISSUE WOULD NORMALLY WARRENT AMBASSADOR DELIVERING NOTE TO FONMIN WHICH NOT POSSIBLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING. HE EXPRESSED HOPE GOJ WOULD CONSIDER US APPROACH IN THAT LIGHT AND BRING IT TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL ATTENTION. MIYAZAKI AGREED TO DO SO.

3. EDMOND STATED IMPORTANT THAT JAPAN BE AWARE OF DEEP AND INTENSE FEELING HELD BY US PUBLIC ON THIS ISSUE. HE URGED FONOFF AND GOJ AT SENIOR LEVELS TO LOOK MOST CAREFULLY INTO MATTER AND CONSIDER QUESTION IN IT BROADEST ASPECTS. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT PROBLEM NOT BE VIEWED SOLELY AS TECHNICAL ONE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OVERTONES.

4. MIYAZAKI REPLIED THAT JAPAN FULLY AGREED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED STATES ON NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF WHALES AND JAPAN HAD NO INTENTION OF EXTERMINATING OR FURTHER DEPLETING WHALE STOCKS. HE STATED THAT IN CONSIDERED VIEW OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS, THE HARVEST LEVEL OF WHALES PROPOSED BY JAPAN WOULD NOT HARM RESOURCE AND WOULD ACTUALLY RESULT IN INCREASE OF STOCKS. HE CITED AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS WHO CLAIMED THAT WITH COMPLETE MORATORIUM IT WOULD TAKE 27

YEARS FOR FIN WHALE RESOURCE TO FULLY RECOVER, WHEREAS WITH JAPANESE PROPOSED FISHING LEVELS, RECOVERY PERIOD WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL TWELVE YEARS. JAPAN BELIEVES THAT ITS ACTIONS ARE NOT CONTRADICTORY TO WHALING AGREEMENT NOR TO EXPERT ADVICE OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO FIN WHALES.

5. MIYAZAKI TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF WHALING INDUSTRY TO JAPAN AND IMPORTANCE OF WHALE MEAT AS SOURCE OF LOWER COST PROTEIN IN JAPANESE DIET. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOJ DECISION WAS REACHED ONLY AFTER LONG AND SERIOUS DELIBERATION WITHIN THE CABINET, WITH ONE MINISTER (UNNAMED) EXPRESSING RESERVATION WITH DECISION. MIYAZAKI NOTED THAT GOJ, OF COURSE, WOULD THOROUGHLY REVIEW US NOTE BUT ON BASIS HASTY EXAMINATION, HE DID NOT SEE THAT IT CONTAINED ANY NEW CONSIDERATIONS THAT WOULD ENABLE IT TO BE BROUGHT TO CABINET FOR FURTHER REVIEW, SINCE ORIGINAL DECISION REACHED ONLY FEW WEEKS AGO AFTER THOROUGH CABINET STUDY.

6. EDMOND AGAIN EXPRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE AND NOTED THAT HE FEARED IT WAS ONE WHICH IF HANDLED IMPROPERLY COULD SOUR MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF RELATIONSHIP. HE URGED THAT OUR CONCERN BE BROUGHT TO MINISTERS. HE NOTED THAT MUCH OF THE BENEFIT PRIME MINISTER HOPED TO BE ACHIEVED BY FORMATION OF JAPAN FUND AND DONATIONS TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES COULD BE NEGATED BY POSSIBLE EMOTIONAL REACTION TO THIS ISSUE. MIYAZAKI STATED HE WAS AWARE OF US PUBLIC CONCERN REGARDING PROTECTION WHALES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG COULD PERSUADE PUBLIC AND MEDIA TO LOOK AT ISSUE ON RATIONAL AND UN-EMOTIONAL BASIS. HE AGREED ROUSING OF PUBLIC PASSIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES COULD ONLY HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON OTHER ASPECTS OF US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP.

7. EDMOND NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT US INTENDED TO CONSULT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE IWC WITH THE VIEW OF SEEING WHAT MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THE SITUATION.

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